

CLAIMS

1. A communicating apparatus for digitally encoding a speech signal by digital encoding means and sending the coded signal to an opponent station, thereby making VoIP speech communication and sending and receiving image data to/from the opponent station, comprising:

communication control means for, when image data is sent to the opponent station,

10 if the opponent station has an IP address, selecting a first image communicating procedure by which the image data is not facsimile-modulated but sent and received to/from the opponent station on an IP network on the basis of a predetermined IP communication protocol by using the IP address of the opponent station obtained from a predetermined server on the basis of a telephone number of the opponent station, and

if the opponent station does not have the IP address, selecting a second image communicating procedure by which the image data is facsimile-modulated by a predetermined facsimile modulating method, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is switched to a digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method, an analog facsimile signal obtained by said facsimile modulation is digitally encoded by said digital

encoding means, and subsequently, the digital coded signal is sent to the opponent station through a media gateway for executing analog/digital signal conversion between the IP network and a public line network.

2. A communicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in said second image communicating procedure, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is switched to the digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method, and a tone signal necessary for a facsimile communication procedure or the facsimile-modulated transmission image data is inputted to said digital encoding means.

3. A communicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the image data is sent to the opponent station, which one of said first and second image communicating procedures is used is determined by analyzing the telephone number of the opponent station.

4. A communicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in said VoIP speech communication, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is selected on the basis of negotiation which is performed on the basis of a VoIP protocol.

5. A control method of a communicating apparatus for digitally encoding a speech signal by

digital encoding means and sending the coded signal to an opponent station, thereby making VoIP speech communication and sending and receiving image data to/from the opponent station, wherein:

- 5 when image data is sent to the opponent station, if the opponent station has an IP address, there is selected a first image communicating procedure by which the image data is not facsimile-modulated but sent and received to/from the opponent station on an
- 10 IP network on the basis of a predetermined IP communication protocol by using the IP address of the opponent station obtained from a predetermined server on the basis of a telephone number of the opponent station, and
- 15 if the opponent station does not have the IP address, there is selected a second image communicating procedure by which the image data is facsimile-modulated by a predetermined facsimile modulating method, the digital encoding method of
- 20 said digital encoding means is switched to a digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method, an analog facsimile signal obtained by said facsimile modulation is digitally encoded by said digital encoding means, and
- 25 subsequently, the digital coded signal is sent to the opponent station through a media gateway for executing analog/digital signal conversion between

the IP network and a public line network.

6. A control method of the communicating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein in said second image communicating procedure, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is switched to the digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method, and a tone signal necessary for a facsimile communication procedure or facsimile-modulated transmission image data is inputted to said digital encoding means.

7. A control method of the communicating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein when the image data is sent to the opponent station, which one of said first and second image communicating procedures is used is determined by analyzing the telephone number of the opponent station.

8. A control method of the communicating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein in said VoIP speech communication, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is selected on the basis of negotiation which is performed on the basis of a VoIP protocol.

2 9. A control program of a communicating apparatus for digitally encoding a speech signal by digital encoding means and sending the coded signal to an opponent station, thereby making VoIP speech communication and sending and receiving image data

to/from the opponent station, comprising:

a control step of, when image data is sent to the opponent station,

if the opponent station has an IP address,
5 selecting a first image communicating procedure by which the image data is not facsimile-modulated but sent and received to/from the opponent station on an IP network on the basis of a predetermined IP communication protocol by using the IP address of the
10 opponent station obtained from a predetermined server on the basis of a telephone number of the opponent station, and

if the opponent station does not have the IP address, selecting a second image communicating
15 procedure by which the image data is facsimile-modulated by a predetermined facsimile modulating method, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is switched to a digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method,
20 an analog facsimile signal obtained by said facsimile modulation is digitally encoded by said digital encoding means, and subsequently, the digital coded signal is sent to the opponent station through a media gateway for executing analog/digital signal
25 conversion between the IP network and a public line network.

10. A control program of the communicating

apparatus, according to claim 9, wherein in said second image communicating procedure, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is switched to the digital encoding method suitable for said facsimile modulating method, and a tone signal necessary for a facsimile communication procedure or facsimile-modulated transmission image data is inputted to said digital encoding means.

11. A control program of the communicating apparatus, according to claim 9, wherein when the image data is sent to the opponent station, which one of said first and second image communicating procedures is used is determined by analyzing the telephone number of the opponent station.

12. A control program of the communicating apparatus, according to claim 9, wherein in said VoIP speech communication, the digital encoding method of said digital encoding means is selected on the basis of negotiation which is performed on the basis of a VoIP protocol.